

REMARKS

Complete Initialed Form PTO-1449 Not Provided to Applicants

Applicants submitted on April 4, 2002 a two-page Substitute Form PTO-1449 bringing certain references to the attention of the Examiner. Applicants did not receive an initialed copy of the second page of this communication (Sheet 2 of 2).

The MPEP states:

The examiner must consider all citations submitted in conformance with the rules and this section, and their initials when placed adjacent to the considered citations on the list or in the boxes provides a clear record of which citations have been considered by the Office.... If any of the citations are considered, a copy of the submitted list, form PTO-1449, or PTO/SB/08A and 08B, as reviewed by the examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. MPEP 609 III C(2)

Applicants respectfully request that a copy of the second page of this initialed form be provided to Applicants. A copy can be included with the next communication from the Patent Office regarding the present application, or can be sent to Applicant's attorney via facsimile at the following number: 408-377-6137.

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 23-24, and 26-31 are pending in the present application. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4-10, 23-24, and 26-31 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Trimberger (U.S. Patent No. 5,752,035). In addition, the Examiner objected to Claims 3 and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-2, 4-10, 23-24, and 26-31, in view of the present amendments and remarks.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 23-24, and 26-31 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Trimberger (U.S. Patent No. 5,752,035).

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of Claim 3, which has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, as amended, Claim 1 is allowable over Trimberger. Claims 2 and 4-10 depend from Claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons of Claim 1. Claim 3 is cancelled as being redundant with newly amended Claim 1.

Claim 23 is amended to include the limitations of Claim 25, which has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, as amended, Claim 23 is allowable over Trimberger. Claims 24 and 26-31 depend from Claim 23, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons of Claim 23. Claim 25 is cancelled as being redundant with newly amended Claim 23.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 1-2, 4-10, 23-24, and 26-31 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile, if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 13, 2004.

Julie Matthews
Name

